

102 IRP #9 “The Story of an Hour” (547) and “The Storm” (120) by Kate Chopin.

1. What specifics in these two stories indicate cultural differences between our own contemporary society and the societies of a century ago portrayed in the stories?
2. Explain how socio-economic class affects the characters in these two pieces. In other words, why does their class matter in the story?
3. Imagine a very devout religious person reading “The Story of an Hour” and “The Storm”: what might be their primary reactions to the stories? Why?
4. Optional bonus question: Read a third story by Chopin, “*Désirée’s Baby*,” that is not included in our book [<http://www.pbs.org/katechopin/library/desireesbaby.html>]. Explain how this story shows that race/racism in America was not (and still is not) a simple matter of Black and White.

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IRP #10 read *Antigone* by Sophocles (1203-1234). Read along as you view the film version available on SC4’s Films on Demand database or using youtube, as shown in class.

1. Describe some of the challenges that modern readers (like you) face when trying to read and understand a work of drama like this one. Which difficulties arise from the fact that this is a work written 2500 years ago in a foreign land? Which difficulties for the reader have to do instead with the fact that this is the script of a play, and so was not intended to be read but rather performed for an audience?
2. *Antigone* is at heart a play about an act of civil disobedience (see below). Do you find Antigone’s disobedience to be justified? Why/why not? Identify at least one specific well-known act of civil disobedience from modern times (20th or 21st century) and compare it with Antigone’s defiance of her king (and the head of her family).

civil disobedience 1. the refusal to obey certain laws or governmental demands for the purpose of influencing legislation or government policy, characterized by the employment of such nonviolent techniques as boycotting, picketing, and nonpayment of taxes. 2. The refusal to obey a law out of a belief that the law is morally wrong. 3. an essay (1848) by Thoreau. **Note** : In the nineteenth century, the American author Henry David Thoreau wrote “Civil Disobedience,” an important essay justifying such action. **Note** : In the twentieth century, civil disobedience was exercised by Mahatma Gandhi in the struggle for independence in India. Civil disobedience, sometimes called nonviolent resistance or passive resistance, was also practiced by some members of the civil rights movement in the United States, notably Martin Luther King, Jr., to challenge segregation of public facilities; a common tactic of these civil rights supporters was the sit-in. King defended the use of civil disobedience in his “Letter from Birmingham Jail.”